

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on September 22, 2005. In response to the Examiner's request, Applicants confirm that initialed copies of the two Information Disclosure Statements that had been filed in this application have been received. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's comment that "Claims 1, 3, 13 containing the limitation of 'no aprotinin is added to the specimen' are allowable". Claims 6 and 12 are amended to recite that feature of the invention. New claims 14-16 are added analogous to original claim 3. New claims 17-20 are added, based upon such disclosure as that in the first full paragraph on page 9 of the specification. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 1, 3, 6, and 12-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of *Pharmacology & Toxicology* 68:276-281 (Lindberg) in view of US 5,057,495 (Flynn) and over the combination of *Clinical Chemistry* 42:1627-1633 (Clerico) in view of Flynn. Independent claims 6 and 12 have now been amended to recite that no aprotinin is added to the specimen. Accordingly, these claims – like independent claims 1 and 13 – are manifestly allowable over the prior art. New claims 14-20, all of which depend from claims which recite that feature of the invention, are likewise manifestly patentable.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all of the outstanding rejections, and issue a Notice of Allowance.

If there are any questions concerning the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension

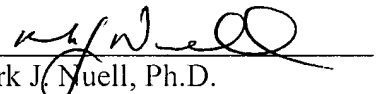
Application No. 09/530,013
Reply to Office Action of July 5, 2005

Docket No.: 0032-0254P

of time fees.

Dated: November 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
rf Mark J. Nuell, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 36,623
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant